

I support media diversity

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the lack of mainstream media coverage regarding the proposed FCC rule changes. For example, I live in the Los Angeles area. In this area, Tribune Co. owns both the LA Times Newspaper and KTLA-Channel 5. The Times has sporadically published items related to the rule changes with most being buried far back into the paper. Recently, they did publish an article about FCC issue on the front page where consumers will most likely read it, but of course the article, in my opinion was flawed in its information. It stated, quite clearly, that the Times and KTLA news do not share resources. Another article printed days later in the commentary section again asserted the same claim. However, if you live in my area and watch KTLA news and read the LA Times like I do, you would know that this claim is an outright lie. For instance, since their merger in 2000, the KTLA morning news team now always has a copy of the LA TIMES in front of them, in plain site, for all their viewers to see and commonly hold the paper up for the camera to get a zoom shot of the specific article they are talking about.

The LA TIMES has published a few articles supporting both sides, however, the articles in opposition are buried farther back in the paper, while the articles in support are placed in the front of the paper where most readers will see it.

Moreover, KTLA's news coverage on the issue has been almost non-existent. They did do a brief story on the morning of 5/19/03 through their Entertainment reporter, but clearly set up banter between the reporter and the anchors to make the oppositions side look silly for their concerns about cross-ownership of the Times and KTLA. The anchors were cheerleading for the proposed changes, while at the same time, not actually reporting on it. Their dialogue was contained to responding to the entertainment reporters' mention of the upcoming changes and their message was clearly in support of their stations position (pro) for rule elimination by the FCC.

KTLA's almost non-existent reporting has been strictly limited to garnering public opinion towards their quest for FCC elimination of the newspaper/television cross-ownership rule, whereas, the LA TIMES strategic placement of information has been creative.

Although both entities could actually claim to have reported on the issue, their actual coverage of it has been biased toward attainment of their agenda goal--to own and control more and more of our information mediums.

It is quite evident to those who oppose the rule changes that the republican majority on the FCC plan to give away our airwaves to corporate interests--their position has been made very clear by Michael Powell so far. The FCC's removal of what's left of our checks and balances in this area will be a slap in the face to all Americans. There is great opposition to these changes, however, the FCC acts as though it doesn't exist or that it is even not important. This has not been a democratic process, even though the airwaves belong to the American people. The very entities that are advocating for these changes (mainstream media) are the very ones who are intentionally keeping the information from the American people. The deception is clear, however, most people don't even know they are being deceived. For one must first be able to get the information to develop an opinion on it, and the American people have been kept in the

dark.

PLEASE do not vote on any proposed rule changes till the public has been thoroughly informed on both sides of the issue. In addition to public opposition, there is non-partisan opposition from many concerned members of Congress. Yet, the majority on the FCC has taken the position that they are so powerful, that they do not have to consider the concerns of the citizenry of America or those of members of Congress. Our concerns are not unimportant. They are valid and should be respected, not disregarded as trivial. If the FCC majority gets their way on June 2 and removes the safeguards in place, then that day will forever be known as the day that three powerful appointees uncaringly stripped the American people of their rights to their protection of a free voice through a diverse media and their names will forever be synonymous with our hated Benedict Arnold.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Respectfully,

Darcy Silverman